



An old African proverb says, “When you plan a journey, it belongs to you. When you begin a journey, you belong to it.” In a never settling phase of life, chasing the ways through the *Camino de Santiago* or The Way of St. James taught me how to reflect on life and its definitive and unwavering purpose. Being assigned as a missionary in Spain, I was given the opportunity to grab this complex retreat experience after hurdling workloads upon workloads in the apostolate.

The Way can be a process of waiting, transition, finding oneself, and gaining the ultimate reward. Undoubtedly, people worldwide set off to experience walking or cycling miles and miles to get to Santiago de Compostela, where the remains of St. James the Apostle can be venerated. It may seem incomprehensible that one desires to embark on long days of walking under the sun’s scorching heat or with shoes covered in mud. This life-changing event leads you to experience solitude—away from devices and madness in our world—but you will surely end up connected with different pilgrims whose memories remain for a lifetime. Many find themselves enriched.

The Way gave me clarity on what is truly important: the true journey starts in finding fruitfulness

THE WAY TO FRUITFULNESS



by Fr. Omar Delgado, SSP

in our relationship with Jesus like the vine and its branches. In the Gospel today, Jesus exposes two cases. First, when the branch becomes dry, it can be cut and thrown away because it cannot bear fruit. Second, while the vine is still healthy, it is the best time to prune it. Why? Experts would say that its strength can be wasted away if it is not pruned since it can produce more branches than it should. The consequence is that not all of the grapes and that the alcohol content of wine drops. It can then grow with many branches

and produce wild grapes. On the path of fruitfulness, the action of God the Father, the Vinedresser, who purifies us through Jesus’ word, is very interesting. The Vinedresser prunes the branches so that they bear even more fruit. The Gospel insists on producing fruit, and this can only be achieved if we remain united with the vine. It is a constant process of conversion and purification to become disciples of Jesus.

To produce much fruit, we are then invited to unite ourselves to Jesus, the true vine, and remain united to him. “Remain in me as I remain in you” (Jn 15:4a). It indicates being present and includes reciprocal union, mutual knowledge, and love as the relationship between the Father and the Son. Jesus also says that the Father abides in him, and he abides in the love of the Father.

My experience of The Way taught me two things: that our journey is all about consistent pruning by taking courage to make sacrifices and focus on what is essential; and that, to remain in Jesus, we embrace his mercy, accept his saving grace, and walk as his faithful followers amid our human failings. We are called to be fruitful and produce fruits of good works, to love not only in words but also in deeds founded upon truth.

PASTORAL CATECHESIS FOR THE YEAR OF *MISSIO AD GENTES*

Fostering a Diversity of Ministries

Fr. James H. Kroeger, MM

Church ministries address a wide variety of pastoral needs. Thus, dialogue and peace-building remain a continuous commitment of the Philippine Church. She strove to be an instrument of reconciliation during the Marcos years. In their 1990 pastoral letter, *Seek Peace, Pursue It*, the bishops laid out a ten-point “path to peace.” The Church also engages in interfaith dialogue with indigenous and Muslim peoples; the Silsilah movement and the pivotal Bishops-Ulama Forum (1996+) have fostered Muslim-Christian harmony in Southern provinces. The annual “Mindanao Week of Peace” was begun in 1999.

The Philippines has an impressive growing body of “local

theology,” often emerging from local communities discerning the “signs of the times” under the Holy Spirit’s lead. Recurrent themes emerge: evangelization and mission, prayer and spirituality, peace-making and reconciliation, dialogue with peoples, cultures, and religious traditions, care for the environment, the Church and public policy.

Several important theological, pastoral, catechetical, and mission journals are published; representative journals are: *Boletín Ecclesialístico de Filipinas*, *Landas*, *Philippiniana Sacra*, *Religious Life Asia*, and *World Mission*. Prominent Filipino theologians are: C. Arévalo, T. Bacani, F. Claver, A. Co, B. Dianzon, F. Gustilo, D. Huang, A. Lagdameo, L. Legaspi, L. Mercado, A. Pernia, O. Quevedo, L. Tagle, and G. Timoner III. Arévalo, Tagle, Gustilo, and Timoner have served on the International Theological Commission. We rejoice to see the Philippine contribution to the “World Church”!

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 98 [97]:1-2)

(Recited when there is no opening song.)

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P — Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All — **And with your spirit.**

Introduction

(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)

P — In our spiritual life, we truly need Christ as a branch needs to remain on the vine. Without him, we can do nothing. We need him to reconcile us to the Father. We need his grace and his strength so that we may do good and face the trials and sufferings of life.

Penitential Act

P — Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *(Pause)*

All — **I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, *(strike your breast)* through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

P — May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All — **Amen.**

P — Lord, have mercy.

All — **Lord, have mercy.**

P — Christ, have mercy.

All — **Christ, have mercy.**

P — Lord, have mercy.

All — **Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

P — Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

All — **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading (Acts 9:26-31)
(Sit)

Saul joins the disciples in Jerusalem. Despite Barnabas' testimony, Saul is met with fear and doubt. Because of a death threat, he is sent away to Tarsus.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

WHEN SAUL arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all

afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem, and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus.

The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

— The word of the Lord.

All — **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 22)

R — **I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people (or Alleluia.)**



1. I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the LORD./ The lowly shall eat their fill;/ they who seek the LORD shall praise him:/ "May your hearts live forever!" **(R)**

2. All the ends of the earth/ shall remember and turn to the LORD;/ all the families of the nations/ shall bow down before him. **(R)**

3. To him alone shall bow

down/ all who sleep in the earth;/ before him shall bend/ all who go down into the dust. (R)

4. And to him my soul shall live;/ my descendants shall serve him./ Let the coming generation be told of the LORD/ that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born/ the justice he has shown. (R)

Second Reading (1 Jn 3:18–24)

The Christian community will always be known by love. It is by love that it remains in intimate union with God.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

CHILDREN, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

— The word of the Lord.
All — Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (Jn 15:4a, 5b) (Stand)

All — Alleluia, alleluia. Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Jn 15:1–8)

P — A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
All — Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS SAID to his disciples: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. “I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

— The Gospel of the Lord.
All — Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily (Sit)

Profession of Faith (Stand)

(Instead of the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, especially during Lent and Easter Time, the baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, known as the Apostles' Creed, may be used.)

All — I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

P — As we affirm our faith in Jesus our Lord, we thank our heavenly Father and ask him to fill us with his choicest blessings. We pray:

R — Father, make us grow in your love.

C — Keep the Church in your love, guide and protect all Church leaders, and make your people a leaven in the transformation of the world. We pray: (R)

C — Bless all families with your strength and love, with your joy and peace, with health and laughter. We pray: (R)

C — Grant that the sick and the lonely, those in bondage and those in exile receive consolation and help. We pray: (R)

C — Embrace our departed loved ones into your loving arms for being with you is their true home. We pray: (R)

C — Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions (pause). We pray: (R)

P — Heavenly Father, give us all the joyful reassurance that you are always with us through your Son Jesus, our Lord. Grant that we may never be separated from you, so that we may bear much fruit for your glory.

Through Christ our Lord.
All — Amen.



Presentation of the Gifts
(Stand)

P — Pray, brethren...

All — **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

P — O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that, as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life.

Through Christ our Lord.

All — **Amen.**

Preface IV of Easter

P — The Lord be with you.
All — **And with your spirit.**

P — Lift up your hearts.
All — **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P — Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All — **It is right and just.**

P — It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

For, with the old order destroyed, a universe cast down is renewed, and integrity of life is restored to us in Christ.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

All — **Holy, Holy, Holy...** *(Kneel)*

Acclamation *(Stand)*

All — **Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**



MAY DEPARTURES

Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein & Switzerland (May 12 - 24, 2022)
with Fr. Alex Thomas

MARIAN JOURNEY (May 13 - Jun 1, 2022)
Portugal, Spain, France, Germany & Italy
with Fr. Arvin Soriano

CENTRAL EUROPE (May 15 - 28, 2022)
Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg & Germany
with Fr. Jun Sescon

BALKANS (May 15 - 30, 2022)
Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia Hercegovina
with Fr. Jerome "Jigs" Rosalinda

OBERAMMERGAU DEPARTURES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER.

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THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All — **Our Father...**

P — Deliver us, Lord...

All — **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.**

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion
(Kneel)

P — Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All — **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Communion Antiphon

(Cf. Jn 15:1-5)

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

(Stand)

P — Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you

have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life.

Through Christ our Lord.

All — **Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P — The Lord be with you.

All — **And with your spirit.**

Solemn Blessing

P — Bow down for the blessing.
(Pause)

May the weakness of your devoted people stir your compassion, O Lord, we pray, and let their faithful pleading win your mercy, that what they do not presume upon by their merits they may receive by your generous pardon.

Through Christ our Lord.

All — **Amen.**

P — And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you for ever.

All — **Amen.**

Dismissal

P — Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All — **Thanks be to God.**